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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

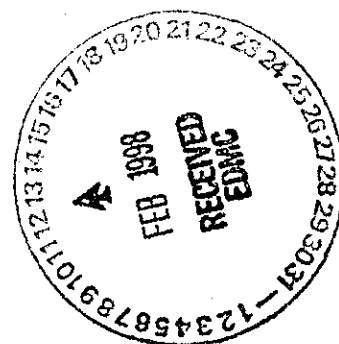
1315 W. 4th Avenue • Kennewick, Washington 99336-6018 • (509) 735-7581

January 30, 1998

Mr. James E. Rasmussen
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

Re: Modified State Waste Discharge Permit ST 4500



The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has completed a modification to the 200 Area Effluent Treatment Facility (ETF) Discharge Permit ST 4500 (Permit). This major modification to the permit was available for public comment from December 29, 1997, to January 27, 1998. No public comments were received, so the modified permit is being issued with no changes from the draft public review version.

This modification to the permit was developed to streamline the process of adding new influents to be treated and discharged by ETF. The original permit, issued to the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) on June 30, 1995, included Special Condition S.3 that described the process to add new influents to the ETF. This condition required USDOE to gain Ecology approval before any new influent could be treated and discharged by ETF. With the experience gained by adding eight new influents to the permit, Ecology has modified condition S.3 to simplify the process for new influents that are similar to the already approved influents. The change will allow USDOE to accept similar influents without seeking further approval from Ecology. Influent that are significantly different than any influents already approved by Ecology will still go through the same approval process as before. This modification will save time and money, while still protecting the environment.

Ecology expects that this permit modification will allow USDOE to be more efficient in their clean-up of the Hanford Site. Ecology also expects that the process for new influents described in condition S.3 will only be used for Hanford Site clean-up related wastewaters. Wastewaters that are not related to the Hanford Site are outside the scope of the permit and would need to be handled as a special case.

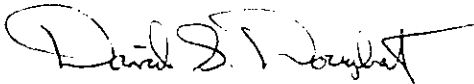
Enclosed is a copy of the modified permit. Special Condition S.3 is the only condition changed. The effective date for this modification to the permit is February 2, 1998, and is listed on the

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cover page of the permit as the "Modified Date." Please replace old copies of your permit with the new modified version.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (509) 736-3047.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. Dougherty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

David S. Dougherty, P.E.
200 Area ETF Discharge Permit Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

DD:ch
Enclosure

cc w/o att: Gregory Sinton, USDOE
 Alex Teimouri, USDOE
 Doug Sherwood, EPA
 Don Flyckt, WMH
 Russell Jim, YIN
 Donna Powauke, NPT
 J.R. Wilkinson, CTUIR
 Mary Lou Blazek, ODOE
 Administrative Record: Liquid Effluents Consent Order

bcc w/o att: Ron Skinnarland, Ecology
Steve Skurla, Ecology